

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jeffry B. Skiba Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. : Unknown Examiner : Unknown
Filed : March 24, 2004
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUTURING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 35 USC §120, this application relies on the earlier filing date of U.S. Application No. 09/550,975, filed on April 18, 2000. The following references in the attached forms PTO-1449 were submitted to or cited by the Office in the prior application and, therefore, are not provided in this application.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 24, 2004

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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 12937-011002	Application No. Unknown
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b))		Applicant Jeffry B. Skiba	
		Filing Date March 24, 2004	Group Art Unit Unknown

U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	3,880,167	04-1975	Hardwick			
	AB	3,892,240	07/1975	Park			
	AC	5,405,354	04/1995	Sarrett			
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

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	AQ	
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U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	5,522,820	06/1996	R.B. Caspari et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

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U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	2,247,342	6/24/41	Brown			
	AB	2,738,790	3/20/56	Todt, Sr., et al.			
	AC	4,172,458	10/30/79	Pereyra			
	AD	4,890,615	1/2/90	Caspari et al.			
	AE	4,923,461	5/8/90	Caspari et al.			
	AF	4,957,498	9/18/90	Caspari et al.			
	AG	5,015,250	5/14/91	Foster			
	AH	5,085,661	2/4/92	Moss			
	AI	5,149,329	9/22/92	Richardson			
	AJ	5,152,769	10/6/92	Baber			
	AK	5,234,438	8/10/93	Semrad			
	AL	5,281,237	1/24/94	Gimpelson			
	AM	5,312,422	5/17/94	Trott			
	AN	6,074,403	6/13/00	Nord			

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AO	DT 25 32 242	2/10/77	Germany			X	
	AP							
	AQ							
	AR							
	AS							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	AT	Charles V. Menendez, M.D., <i>A Revived Ligature Carrier</i> , The American Journal of Surgery, Volume 115, pp. 583-584, 1968.
	AU	Derek J. Byrne et al., <i>Highly selective vagotomy: use of a ligature carrier</i> , Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Vol. 72, pp. 9-10, 1990.

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(37 CFR §1.98(b))			

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	AV	Fred S. Miyazaki, MD, <u>MIYA HOOK LIGATURE CARRIER FOR SACROSPINOUS LIGAMENT SUSPENSION</u> , The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Vol. 70, No. 2, August 1987.
	AW	G. Lichtenberger et al., <u>Laryngomikrochirurgische Laterofixation gelahmter Stimmlippen mit Hilfe eines neuen Nahtinstrumentes</u> , Laryngo-Rhino-Otol., 68(1989), pp. 678-682.
	AX	H. Courtenay Clarke, M.D., <u>Laparoscopy – New Instruments for Suturing and Ligation</u> , Fertility and Sterility,, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 274-277, April 1972.
	AY	Harrith M. Hasson, M.D., <u>Suture Loop Techniques to Facilitate Microsurgical and Laparoscopic Procedures</u> , The Journal of Reproductive Medicine for the Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Volume 32, pp. 765-767, Number 10/October 1987.
	AZ	Linvatec 1994 Product Catalog, pp. 59 and 61, Linvatec Corporation (1994).
	AAA	Rene D. Esser, M.D., <u>Arthroscopic Meniscus Repair: The Easy Way</u> , The Journal of Arthroscopic and Related Surgery, 9(2), pp. 231-233, 1993.
	ABB	V. John Kilejian, <u>"The Suture": A New Suturing Instrument</u> , The Journal of Urology, Vol. 133, pp. 231-232, February 1985.
	ACC	

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U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	5,562,685	10/8/96	Mollenauer et al.			
	AB	5,709,692	1/20/98	Mollenauer et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

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Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	2,737,954	3/13/56	Knapp			
	AB	5,391,174	2/21/95	Weston			
	AC	5,562,685	10/8/96	Mollenauer et al.			
	AD	5,571,119	11/5/96	Atala			
	AE	5,709,692	1/20/98	Mollenauer et al.			
	AF	5,817,108	10/6/98	Poncet			
	AG	5,843,099	12/1/98	Nichols et al.			
	AH	6,113,610	9/5/00	Poncet			
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
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							Yes	No
	AL	528550	10/31/40	Great Britain				
	AM	WO 96/39946	12/19/96	PCT				
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

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Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	5,222,977	6/29/93	Esser			
	AB	5,149,329	9/22/92	Richardson			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
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							Yes	No
	AL	WO 95/11630	5/4/95	WIPO				
	AM	DE 29722769	3/12/98	Germany			X (abstract)	
	AN	DE 2532242	2/10/77	Germany			X (abstract)	
	AO	WO 97/16121	5/9/97	WIPO				
	AP	FR 401199	8/20/09	France				X

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Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	659,422	10/09/1900	Shidler			
	AB	919,138	04/20/09	Drake et al.			
	AC	1,635,066	07/05/27	Wells			
	AD	1,815,725	07/21/31	Pilling et al.			
	AE	2,065,659	12/29/36	Cullen			
	AF	2,414,882	01/28/47	Longfellow			
	AG	2,593,622	04/22/52	Stanelle			
	AH	2,610,631	09/16/52	Calicchio			
	AI	2,880,728	04/07/59	Rights			
	AJ	3,036,482	05/29/62	Kenworthy et al.			
	AK	3,470,834	10/07/69	Bone			
	AL	3,470,875	10/07/69	Johnson			
	AM	3,638,653	02/01/72	Berry			
	AN	3,716,058	02/13/73	Tanner, Jr.			
	AO	3,840,017	10/08/74	Violante			
	AP	3,842,824	10/22/74	Neufeld			
	AQ	3,842,840	10/22/74	Schweizer			
	AR	3,871,379	03/18/75	Clarke			
	AS	3,890,975	06/24/75	McGregor			
	AT	3,901,244	08/26/75	Schweizer			
	AU	3,946,740	03/30/76	Bassett			
	AV	3,980,177	09/14/76	McGregor			
	AW	3,990,619	11/09/76	Russell			
	AX	4,161,951	07/24/79	Scanlan, Jr.			
	AY	4,164,225	08/14/79	Johnson et al.			
	AZ	4,224,947	09/30/80	Fukuda			

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	BA	4,235,238	11/25/80	Ogiu et al.			
	BB	4,326,531	04/27/82	Shimonaka			
	BC	4,384,406	05/24/83	Tischlinger			
	BD	4,448,194	05/15/84	DiGiovanni et al.			
	BE	4,493,323	01/15/85	Albright et al.			
	BF	4,500,024	02/19/85	DiGiovanni et al.			
	BG	4,509,516	04/09/85	Richmond			
	BH	4,512,344	04/23/85	Barber			
	BI	4,535,768	08/20/85	Hourahane et al.			
	BJ	4,580,563	04/08/86	Gross			
	BK	4,590,929	05/27/86	Klein			
	BL	4,596,249	06/24/86	Freda et al.			
	BM	4,602,635	07/29/86	Mulhollan et al.			
	BN	4,621,639	11/11/86	Transue et al.			
	BO	4,621,640	11/11/86	Mulhollan et al.			
	BP	4,633,869	01/06/87	Schmieding			
	BQ	4,641,652	02/10/87	Hutterer et al.			
	BR	4,643,178	02/17/87	Nastari et al.			
	BS	4,662,068	05/05/87	Polonsky			
	BT	4,716,893	01/05/88	Fischer et al.			
	BU	4,723,546	02/09/88	Zagorski			
	BV	4,724,840	02/16/88	McVay et al.			
	BW	4,739,751	04/26/88	Sapega et al.			
	BX	4,741,330	05/03/88	Hayhurst			
	BY	4,778,468	10/18/88	Hunt et al.			
	BZ	4,779,616	10/25/88	Johnson			
	CA	4,787,377	11/29/88	Laboureau			
	CB	4,790,312	12/13/88	Capuano, Sr. et al.			

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	CC	4,881,537	11/21/89	Henning			
	CD	4,890,615	01/02/90	Caspari et al.			
	CE	4,899,743	02/13/90	Nicholson et. al.			
	CF	4,923,461	05/08/90	Caspari et al.			
	CG	4,935,027	06/19/90	Yoon			
	CH	4,950,285	08/17/90	Wilk			
	CI	4,957,498	09/18/90	Caspari et al.			
	CJ	5,053,047	10/01/91	Yoon			
	CK	5,085,661	02/04/92	Moss			
	CL	5,100,418	03/31/92	Yoon et al.			
	CM	5,120,318	06/09/92	Nallapareddy			
	CN	5,123,913	06/23/92	Wilk et al.			
	CO	5,149,329	09/22/92	Richardson			
	CP	5,174,087	12/29/92	Bruno			
	CQ	5,178,629	01/12/93	Kammerer			
	CR	5,181,919	01/26/93	Bergman et al.			
	CS	5,201,744	04/13/93	Jones			
	CT	5,211,650	05/18/93	Noda			
	CU	5,217,471	06/08/93	Burkhart			
	CV	5,217,486	06/08/93	Rice et al.			
	CW	5,222,508	06/29/93	Contarini			
	CX	5,224,955	07/06/93	West			
	CY	5,250,054	10/05/93	Li			
	CZ	5,254,126	10/19/93	Filipi et al.			
	DA	5,259,846	11/09/93	Granger et al.			
	DB	5,266,075	11/30/93	Clark et al.			
	DC	5,269,783	12/14/93	Sander			
	DD	5,269,786	12/14/93	Morgan			
	DE	5,282,809	02/01/94	Kammerer et al.			

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

	DF	5,306,280	04/26/94	Bregen et al.			
	DG	5,312,422	05/17/94	Trott			
	DH	5,327,896	07/12/94	Schmieding			
	DI	5,334,198	08/02/94	Hart et al.			
	DJ	5,356,419	10/18/94	Chow			
	DK	5,364,408	11/15/94	Gordon			
	DL	5,372,604	12/13/94	Trott			
	DM	5,382,257	01/17/95	Lewis et al.			
	DN	5,391,170	02/21/95	McGuire et al.			
	DO	5,391,173	02/21/95	Wilk			
	DP	5,393,302	02/28/95	Clark et al.			
	DQ	5,409,494	04/25/95	Morgan			
	DR	5,441,502	08/15/95	Bartlett			
	DS	5,441,507	08/15/95	Wilk			
	DT	5,447,512	09/05/95	Wilson et al.			
	DU	5,449,367	09/12/95	Kadry			
	DV	5,456,246	10/10/95	Schmieding et al.			
	DW	5,464,425	11/07/95	Skiba			
	DX	5,466,243	11/14/95	Schmieding et al.			
	DY	5,496,331	03/05/96	Xu et al.			
	DZ	5,501,688	03/26/96	Whiteside et al.			
	EA	5,520,696	05/28/96	Wenstrom, Jr.			
	EB	5,520,703	05/28/96	Essig et al.			
	EC	5,522,820	06/04/96	Caspari et al.			
	ED	5,527,322	06/18/96	Klein et al.			
	EE	5,545,170	08/13/96	Hart			
	EF	5,549,613	08/27/96	Goble et al.			
	EG	5,549,618	08/27/96	Fleenor et al.			
	EH	5,549,636	08/27/96	Li			

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	EI	5,554,171	09/10/96	Gattorna et al.			
	EJ	5,562,683	10/08/96	Chan			
	EK	5,562,687	10/08/96	Chan			
	EL	5,562,696	10/08/96	Nobles et al.			
	EM	5,565,122	10/15/96	Zinnbauer et al.			
	EN	5,569,269	10/29/96	Hart et al.			
	EO	5,571,090	11/05/96	Sherts			
	EP	5,601,571	02/11/97	Moss			
	EQ	5,618,304	04/08/97	Hart et al.			
	ER	5,626,590	05/06/97	Wilk			
	ES	5,632,748	05/27/97	Beck, Jr. et al.			
	ET	5,643,266	07/01/97	Li			
	EU	5,645,552	07/08/97	Sherts			
	EV	5,658,299	08/19/97	Hart			
	EW	5,662,658	09/02/97	Wenstrom, Jr.			
	EX	5,665,096	09/09/97	Yoon			
	EY	5,681,333	10/28/97	Burkhart et al.			
	EZ	5,690,677	11/25/97	Schmieding et al.			
	FA	5,693,061	12/02/97	Pierce et al.			
	FB	5,697,950	12/16/97	Fucci et al.			
	FC	5,728,135	03/17/98	Bregen et al.			
	FD	5,752,964	05/19/98	Mericle			
	FE	5,797,927	08/25/98	Yoon			
	FF	5,800,447	09/01/98	Wenstrom, Jr.			
	FG	5,814,052	09/29/98	Nakao et al.			
	FH	5,814,054	09/29/98	Kortenbach et al.			
	FI	5,826,776	10/27/98	Schulze et al.			
	FJ	5,827,298	10/27/98	Hart et al.			
	FK	5,843,084	12/01/98	Hart et al.			

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	FL	5,846,254	12/08/98	Schulze et al.			
	FM	5,855,311	01/05/99	Hamblin et al.			
	FN	5,860,983	01/19/99	Wenstrom, Jr.			
	FO	5,897,563	04/27/99	Yoon et al.			
	FP	5,897,564	04/27/99	Schulze et al.			
	FQ	5,897,574	04/27/99	Bonutti			
	FR	5,904,692	05/18/99	Steckel et al.			
	FS	5,908,426	01/01/99	Pierce			
	FT	5,918,604	07/06/99	Whelan			
	FU	5,928,252	07/27/99	Steadman et al.			
	FV	5,941,439	08/24/99	Kammerer et al.			
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	GJ						
	GK						
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 12937-011002	Application No. New Application
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Jeffry B. Skiba et al.	
		Filing Date March 24, 2004	Group Art Unit Unknown
(37 CFR §1.98(b))			

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications								
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	GM	1034728A	08/15/83	Soviet Union			X (Abstract)	
	GN	95/02363	01/26/95	PCT				
	GO	99/12480	03/18/99	PCT				
	GP							
	GQ							
	GR							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	GS	
	GT	
	GU	
	GV	

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						YES	NO

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						YES	NO

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						YES	NO

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	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
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	99/21507	05/06/1999	WO				

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